

In March of 2020, in response to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing declared that Municipal Councils will not meet in person but will instead hold virtual meetings. Under this order Council of the Municipality of the County of Cumberland held Council video meetings via Zoom. This meeting was also streamed live on Facebook.

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

Mayor Scott called the January 13, 2021 Council session of the Municipality of the County of Cumberland to Order at 6:02 p.m.

Communications/Executive Assistant to the CAO, Shelley Hoeg called the roll with the following members of Council present: Mayor Murray Scott, Councillor Fred Goud; Councillor Rod Gilroy, Councillor Jennifer Houghtaling, Deputy Mayor Kathy Redmond, Councillor Angela McCormick, Councillor Mark Joseph, Councillor Dale Porter, Councillor Carrie Goodwin.

Staff present: Steve Ferguson, Director of Community Development; Andrew MacDonald, Director of Finance; Justin Waugh-Cress, Director of Operations and Public Works; Dannie Sampson, IT; Allie McCormick Manager of Organizational Development & Innovation; Amanda MacLeod, Sustainable Communities Marketing Officer; Will Balsler, Junior Planner; and Shelley Hoeg, Communications/Executive Assistant to the CAO, who recorded the meeting.

Media present in the meeting:

Bill Martin, Six Rivers News; and Maurice Rees, Shoreline Journal

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

2.1 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

6.6 iii) Affordable Housing Committee

6.9 CAO Early Retirement Plan

2.2 Approval of the Minutes of the December 16, 2020 Council Session

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gilroy, second by Councillor Gould to approve the minutes of December 16, 2020 as presented.

**No Objections
MOTION CARRIED**

2.3 Business Arising

i) December 2, 2020 Council Session.

The action lists were reviewed. Staff will follow up on #7 which is ongoing and will also follow up with #15 on the Ongoing Business.

2.4 Delegations Presentations Petitions

i) Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee

Mr. Jeff Black of the Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee was on hand to provide Council with information regarding the history of the Committee and the work they have undertaken since its' inception. He discussed the Committee's newsletter and encouraged people to sign up.

ii) Cliffs of Fundy Geopark

Beth Peterkin, Executive Director, provided an update to Council regarding the accomplishments of the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark in the last few months. Ms. Peterkin also advised of the background information regarding the inception of the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Committee and the governance that exists today.

iii) N.S. Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Jason Haughn, Municipal Advisor, Nick Barr, Acting Director, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Marilyn Hay, Municipal Advisor, Ross MacDonald, Municipal Advisor and Lorraine Boyd, REN Coordinator were present to go over Councillors Roles and Responsibilities. How to govern in the most efficient and effective way, while dealing with multiple view points and points of interest.

2.5 i) Local Improvement Bylaw

Mayor Scott opened the public hearing on this item at 7:17 p.m. Andrew MacDonald, Director of Finance, reviewed and summarized the proposed amendments for Council. These amendments had been provided to Councillors in the meeting material. The Mayor then asked if there were any written submissions or residents who wished to speak. Staff indicated there were neither. The Mayor then asked if there were any questions from Council. Staff addressed questions from Council.

The Mayor then closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Goodwin, seconded by Councillor Joseph to hold 2nd Reading of the Local Improvement Bylaw at our February 3, 2021 Council session.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Amendment to the Land Use Bylaw to rezone PID 25394859, Fort Lawrence Road

Mayor Scott opened the public hearing on this item at 7:21 p.m. Junior Planner, Will Balser reviewed and summarized the proposed amendments for Council. These amendments had been provided to Councillors in the meeting material. The Mayor then asked if there were any written submissions or residents who wished to speak. There were numerous letters regarding this item, which are attached and form part of these minutes. Also, 2 residents have registered to speak to Council.

The residents made their presentations to Council regarding the proposed rezoning.

The Mayor then asked if there were any questions from Council. Staff addressed questions from Council.

The Mayor then closed the Public Hearing at 7:46 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gould, seconded by Councillor Gilroy to hold 2nd Reading of the Amendment to the Land Use Bylaw to rezone PID 25394859 at our February 3, 2021 Council session.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Amendment to the Land Use Bylaw to rezone PID 25508177, 3815 Highway 302, Nappan

Mayor Scott opened the public hearing on this item at 7:47 p.m. Junior Planner, Will Balser reviewed and summarized the proposed amendments for Council. These amendments had been provided to Councillors in the meeting material. The Mayor then asked if there were any written submissions or residents who wished to speak. There were none. The Mayor then asked if there were any questions from Council, of which there were none.

The Mayor then closed the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Porter, seconded by Councillor Gould to hold 2nd Reading of the Amendment to the Land Use Bylaw to rezone PID 25508177 at our February 3, 2021 Council session.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Development Agreement for PID 25074808, 324 Nappan Road, Upper Nappan

Mayor Scott opened the public hearing on this item at 7:50 p.m. Junior Planner, Will Balser reviewed and summarized the proposed amendments for Council. These amendments had been provided to Councillors in the meeting material. The Mayor then asked if there were any written submissions or residents who wished to speak, of which, there were none. The Mayor then asked if there were any questions from Council, of which there were none.

The Mayor then closed the Public Hearing at 7:53 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Joseph, seconded by Councillor Gould to hold 2nd Reading of the Development Agreement for PID 25074808 at our March 3, 2021 Council session.

MOTION CARRIED

3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ISSUES

3.1 Financial Sustainability Strategy

Director of Finance, Andrew MacDonald presented this document to Council and answered any questions that Council had.

IT WAS AGREED by Council to refer the Financial Sustainability Document to the Audit Committee/Financial Sustainability Committee for review and comments.

4. MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

4.1 Update on the 2021/2022 Budget

Our Director of Finance circulated a document pertaining to the process and guidelines for our budget preparation.

4.2 2021 Assessments

Director of Finance, Andrew MacDonald presented a summary of our 2021 Assessment Roll.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY/BYLAW ISSUES

5.1 Reimbursement Policy for Members of Council and Chief Administrative Officer

Council was advised that this Policy requires reaffirmation each year. Before approving this Policy staff have amended the Policy to remove the words Warden and Deputy Warden and replace those words with Mayor and Deputy Mayor. If Council agrees, staff would like a motion to approve a Notice of Intent to Consider for adoption at our next Council session.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gilroy, seconded by Councillor McCormick to approve Notice of Intent to Consider adoption of the Reimbursement Policy for Members of Council and Chief Administrative Officer at our February 3, 2021 Council session.

MOTION CARRIED

5.2 First Reading of an amendment to Land Use Bylaw to rezone PID 25365511, 746 Miller Road

Will Balsler, Junior Planner provided the background information on this issue to Council along with supporting documentation.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Houghtaling, seconded by Deputy Mayor Redmond to approve first reading of an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw to rezone PID 25365511 and to hold a public hearing for this matter at the February 17th, 2021 Council session.

MOTION CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ISSUES

6.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

Councillor Houghtaling advised Council of her desire to have Council do a Territorial Acknowledgement to serve as a reminder of our responsibility when making decisions regarding our natural resources. Staff also discussed having inclusivity training for our Council and the importance of our Council in being respectful and inclusive.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Houghtaling, seconded by Councillor Gould to direct staff to research wording for a Territorial Acknowledgement and also to have a presentation provided to Council regarding the indigenous history of Cumberland County.

MOTION CARRIED

6.2 Committee Reports

Mayor Scott advised Council that Councillors are requested to quarterly, provide an update/report to Council regarding the Committees they are sitting on and the undertakings of those Committees.

6.3 Grant Request

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Joseph, seconded by Councillor Houghtaling to approve a grant for the Southampton Community Centre, for roof replacement in the amount of \$3450.

MOTION CARRIED

6.4 "Nova Scotia Starts Here" Campaign

Mayor Scott informed Council of a campaign that has been initiated by MLA Cumberland North, Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin. He will provide further information as it is received.

6.5 Election Financial Statements

Assistant Returning Officer, Shelley Hoeg, presented Council the financial statements from the 2020 Election. She advised of the savings due to having 8 polling stations within 4 physical locations.

6.6 Nominations Committee Housekeeping Items

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gould, seconded by Councillor McCormick to remove Deputy Mayor Redmond from the VON Committee and replacing her with Councillor Gould; adding Councillor Houghtaling to the Communications Committee and; removing Deputy Mayor Redmond from the Board of East Cumberland Lodge.

MOTION CARRIED

Staff were requested to look into an Affordable Housing Committee to determine is there is such a Committee in Cumberland or is there a Committee of Council that this Committee could fall under the umbrella of.

6.7 Extended Producer Responsibility

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Houghtaling, seconded by Councillor Gould to forward a letter to the Minister of Environment, copied to NSFAM, advising that:

WHEREAS municipalities have been abiding by the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations since 1995; and

WHEREAS these regulations hold municipalities solely accountable for proper separation of blue bag materials; and

WHEREAS municipalities must manage the risk of rising costs and fluctuating commodity markets for blue bag materials; and

WHEREAS municipalities' residential recycling programs cost over \$25 million per year and are paid for primarily by municipal taxpayers; and

WHEREAS 80% of Canadian consumers live in areas where producers fund PPP programs by incorporating program costs into their national product pricing; and

WHEREAS Nova Scotia consumers are already paying the national product prices that support PPP programs in other provinces, but receive none of the benefits because Nova Scotia has no EPR program; and

WHEREAS NSFAM has developed a proposed model for EPR for PPP in cooperation with municipalities and businesses; and

WHEREAS EPR for PPP would significantly decrease both costs and risks associated with municipal curbside recycling programs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NSFM request the Province develop legislation and regulations in support of a full EPR for PPP model as proposed by NSFM in consultation with municipalities and businesses; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the province provide a transition program to assist those municipalities who are left with redundant facilities.

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.8 Correspondence re: Cumberland Recreational Facility
Council has received correspondence from a resident requesting a recreation facility in the Municipality of Cumberland that could be partnered with the Town of Amherst.

Staff were directed to contact the Town of Amherst to ascertain if there is any interest in discussing a shared recreation facility in the borders of the Municipality of Cumberland.

- 6.9 CAO Early Retirement Plan
Mayor Scott advised that after 25 years with the Municipality our CAO, Rennie Bugley, has requested an early retirement.

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Houghtaling to accept the request of CAO, Rennie Bugley and approve his early retirement.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gould, seconded by Councillor Gilroy to establish a Hiring Committee comprised of: Mayor Scott, Deputy Mayor Redmond, Councillor Houghtaling, Councillor Gilroy and Councillor Joseph.

MOTION CARRIED

- * **IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gilroy, seconded by Councillor Houghtaling to approve the hiring of professional recruitment company to undertake the process to obtain and search for a new CAO.**

MOTION CARRIED

*** THIS MOTION WAS RESCINDED AT THE JANUARY 27, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 7.1 2020 Employee Recommended Workplace Designation
Allie McCormick provided information to Council advising that The Municipality of the County of Cumberland has been recognized as a 2020 Employee Recommended Workplace. The Employee Recommended Workplace Awards is an award established by The Globe and Mail and Morneau Shepell which recognizes workplaces with proven success in creating a healthy environment and one that supports employee well-being. This award is the only one of its kind that is based entirely on employee feedback. This is the third year that the Municipality has been recognized as an Employee Recommended Workplace.

In addition to this recognition, the Municipality has also been recognized as category winner: Government – Small Organizations. We are proud to say this is the second time the Municipality has been awarded this distinction. Mayor Scott extended his congratulations to staff for this achievement.

8. ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.